

REMARKS

Claim Amendments

By this amendment, claims 58, 73, 81, and 84 have been amended, and new claims 92 and 93 have been added. Claims 58-60 and 68-93 are pending in this application. Claims 59, 60, 69-72, 74-76, 82, 83, and 85-87 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being drawn to nonelected species in the absence of an allowed generic or linking claim. However, these withdrawn claims are believed to now be in condition for allowance, as they depend from generic claims now in condition for allowance.

Claims 73 and 84 were identified as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 73 and 84 have been rewritten as independent claims 92 and 93, respectively.

New claims 94-99 include additional features believed to be patentable. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

The Office Action rejected claims 58, 68, 77-81, and 88-91 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wall in view of Fukano et al., and further in view of Massing.

Applicant's attorney, Kenneth Smith, and Examiner John Fox conducted a telephone interview on August 15, 2006 regarding claim 58. As indicated in his Interview Summary, Examiner Fox agreed that the proposed claim language at the end of claim 58 ("and is adjustable from outside the valve actuator") would distinguish over the prior art. Claim 58 has been amended accordingly. Claim 81 has also been amended to recite that the adjustable mechanism is adjustable from outside the valve actuator. As such, claims 58 and 81 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Further, currently pending claims 68, 77-80, and 88-91, and withdrawn claims 59, 60, 69-72, 74-76, 82, 83, and 85-87 all depend from either of generic claims 58 and 81, and are therefore also patentable over the cited references and in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that all currently pending claims and withdrawn claims depending from currently pending claims are now in condition for allowance. It is believed that there are no other additional fees associated with the filing and consideration of this amendment,

however, should the Commissioner decide that any additional fee or fee deficiency is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any and all fees incurred as a result of entering this amendment and response to deposit account number 03-0172. Any questions regarding this application can be addressed to the undersigned.

Respectively submitted,

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